

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of February 24, 2006. In that Office Action, independent claims 1, 19 and 49 (and many of the dependent claims) were rejected under 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,157,967 to Meyst, U.S. Patent Number 5,269,917 to Stankowski or U.S. Patent No. 6,086,762 to Guala, U.S. Patent No. 6,168,653 to Myers. In addition, independent claims 1 and 19 (and some of their dependent claims) were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,326,957 to Rosenberg and claim 19 was rejected under 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,009,714 to Hammer.

Claims 7-8, 11-12 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Rosenberg and further in view of Published Application 2001/0009756 to Hei. Claim 22 was also rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,009,714 to Hammer in view of Hei.

Claims 53-55 were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite a flow-through device for removing selected compounds from a liquid. The device includes a housing having first and second portions where, among other things, the inner surface of one of the portions includes a continuous groove near the periphery of the portion for receiving the tongue of the other portion. The groove is defined by radially inner and outer walls wherein at least one of the walls includes shoulder extending therefrom. The shoulder is disposed relative to the tongue such that during the assembly of the housing, the

tongue initially contacts the shoulder. Support for this aspect of claim 1 is set forth in paragraph [0083] of the published application.

Applicants submit that a groove having an outwardly extending shoulder is neither shown nor suggested in the '917 Stankowski patent, the '762 Guala patent, the '653 Myers patent, the '957 Rosenberg or the '714 Hammer patent. For these reasons, none of the references identified above would anticipate claim 1, as amended.

The '967 Meyst patent discloses a groove including an annular plastic ridge 57. However, Meyst does not disclose a housing that includes a compound removal device. Meyst discloses a blood filter comprising a stack of fibrous filter pads. Thus, Claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Meyst.

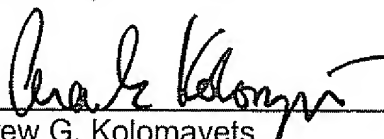
Claim 19 has been amended to recite a flow-through device for removing selected compounds from a liquid comprising a housing that includes, among other things, an inlet port on one side of the housing and an outlet port on the other side of the housing. The outlet is located diametrically opposite to and above the inlet port (when the housing is in its normal orientation), as described in paragraph [0073] of the published application, and shown in FIGS. 1, 2, 1A and 2A. The recited arrangement of ports is also shown in the cross-sectional view of FIG. 5. Applicants submit that none of the references cited or relied upon in the Office Action disclose an orientation of inlet and outlet ports as recited in claim 19, as amended. In all of the references relied upon by the Examiner, the inlet port appears to be located "above" the outlet port when the filter is in its normal orientation for use. For this reason, Applicants submit that claim 19 is not anticipated by the cited art.

Finally, claim 48 has been amended to recite a flow-through device for removing selected compounds from a liquid wherein the removal medium peripheral end is in contact with a liquid impermeable barrier. As described in the specification, and shown in the figures, examples of a liquid impermeable barrier may include a sealant introduced into the area between the medium and the housing such that the sealed contacts, and preferably the peripheral end of the removal medium, also surrounds a gasket, a molded ring, or depositing or printing a hot melt adhesive onto the medium (see paragraphs [0086] through [0092]. Applicants submit that no such removal medium with impermeable barrier is shown in the art of record.

Applicants have also amended paragraph [0083] of the application to correct the references to the figures.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that the claims are not anticipated or obvious in view of the prior art. The claims are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of such claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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